



# Camp Parks Reserve Forces Training Area Changes Command

On Tuesday July 9, Lt. Col. Christopher Gerdes assumed Command of the Camp Parks Reserve Forces Training Area Garrison during a change of command ceremony at the Parks parade field.

Gerdes who is a native of Dayton Ohio takes command of a staff of more than seventy Civilians and Soldiers whose mission is to provide training areas and logistical support to more than twenty tenant units in Parks area of operation. His responsibilities also include the care and welfare of one hundred and fourteen active duty families that live in family housing at Parks.

"Command is a privilege, I understand that, and not every officer gets an opportunity to command, its not a right... so I feel very blessed, very honored and quite frankly very humbled to be taking command", said Gerdes.

Further he attributed his success to Soldiers, the Civilian work force, contractors and the people in the communities where he lived were the things that got him this far.

Moreover he said, "Nobody ever won a battle by themselves and nobody ever commanded a garrison by themselves...I'll be successful because we have great staff and we'll do great things together."

His prior assignment was in the Pentagon working in the office of the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army and his combat and overseas service includes Operation Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Joint Task Force Bravo (Honduras), and Bamberg, Germany.

Col. David R. James who is the prior Commander of Parks, moves to greater challenges and will soon attend the Naval War College in Rhode Island. He too spoke of the outstanding community support and the outstanding accomplishments of the garrison staff.

